

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 IO-14

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FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2812

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERLIN 44

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT: 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ENDING OF BERLIN AIRLIFT

REF: USIA 342

1. WE HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH SENAT IN REGARD
TO PLANS FOR CELEBRATING 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF END OF BERLIN AIRLIFT ON
MAY 12. SHORTLY BEFORE HOLIDAYS, HEAD OF CHANCELLERY
HERZ INFORMED ALLIED SENAT LIAISON OFFICERS THAT IS
TENTATIVE PROGRAM CALLED FOR CUSTOMARY WREATH-LAYING
AT AIRLIFT MEMORIAL; FOLLOWED BY CEREMONY AT TEMPELHOF
AIRPORT PROPER, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE SPEECHES BY
GOVERNING MAYOR, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PRESIDENT
SICKERT, ALLIED REPRESENTATIVE, BERLIN POLITICIAN
FROM AIRLIFT PERIOD; AND DINNER OR LUNCH HOSTED BY
GOVERNING MAYOR. ALLIED VIEWS WERE REQUESTED IN
REGARD TO POSSIBILITY OF OPEN-HOUSE PROGRAM AT
BERLIN AIRPORTS, AS WELL AS PHOTO EXHIBITON.

2. SENAT INDICATED IT WOULD LIKE TO INVITE AS
ANNIVERSARY GUESTS GENERAL CLAY, MILITARY GOVERNOR
DURING AIRLIFT; GENERAL HOWLEY, COMMANDANT DURING
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AIRLIFT; GENERAL TUNNER, COMMANDER USAFE AT TIME OF

AIRLIFT; AND THREE PILOTS WHO FLEW IN AIRLIFT.
POSSIBILITY HAD BEEN MENTIONED SOME MONTHS EARLIER
OF INVITING ALL PREVIOUS BERLIN COMMANDANTS FOR
OCCASION BUT THIS SUGGESTION HAS NOT BEEN RENEWED.
THOUGHT IS BEING GIVEN, HOWEVER, TO INVITING WIDOWS
OF CREWS WHO DIED DURING AIRLIFT AND HERZ JANUARY 2
SUGGESTED TO DCPAO THAT RIAS AND AMERIKA HAUS DIRECTORS
DURING AIRLIFT MIGHT BE ADDED TO LIST. GUESTS WOULD BE
ASKED TO ARRIVE IN TIME TO ATTEND ALLIED FORCES DAY
CEREMONY AND RECEPTION MAY11.

3. WE THOUGHT IT ADVISABLE TO CHECK WITH SENAT BEFORE
ASKING DEPARTMEN'S VIEWS ON ABOVE PROGRAM TO MAKE
SURE SENAT HA RUN ITS SCENARIO BY BONN. WE WERE
INFORMED BY HERZ JANUARY 9 THAT HE IS SATISFIED PROPOSED
PROGRAM HAS FRG BLESSING. ACCORDINGLY, WE WOULD BE
PREPARED TO MOVE AHEAD AND ASSIST SENAT IN REGARD TO
SUCH MATTERS AS PARTICIPATION, PROVISION OF MILITARY
BAND OR BANDS, US OF FACILITY FOR AIRPORT CEREMONY,
ETC. SENAT HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT POSSIBILITIES FOR
OPEN HOUSE MAY DEPEND HEAVILY ON FUEL SITUATION, BUT
OUR THINKING IS THAT, IN ANY EVENT, COMBINED AFFAIR
AT TEMPELHOF WOULD BE MORE ADVISABLE FOR SECURITY AND
OTHER REAOSNS THAN SEPARATE EVENTS AT THE THREE AIRPORTS.

4. ACTION REQUESTD: BEFORE COMMENTING TO SENAT ON ITS
PROPOSALS OR RESPONDING FURTHER TO REQUESTS FOR
ASSISTANCE, MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY AND
DEPARTMENT VIEWS, PARTICULARLY ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT
MAY HAVE ON AVAILABILITY OF THE THREE PRINCIPAL GUESTS
OF HONOR. (WE UNDERSTAND INVITATIONS WOULD ALSO BE
EXTENDED TO BRITISH AND FRENCH COUNTERPARTS.)

5. USCOB CONCURS.KLEIN

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